

Regarding the truce talks at Panmunjom there's optimism in Washington, from which last minute instructions were sent to our negotiators. Optimism at the U.N., which is arranging a "peace meeting", that would follow any armistice. And, optimism in Korea. Also cautious optimism by the Allies. And apparently more open optimism on the part of the Reds. At least Communist loud speakers along the battleline have been booming the message: "Do not expose yourselves to our fire. A truce will be signed."

General Mark Clark flew to Korea for last minute discussions. He met General Harrison, the leader of our delegation, and General Taylor, Commander of our Eighth Army. Afterward, General Clark refused to talk to reporters. But a U.P. dispatch from Tokyo states that agreement on the exchange of prisoners-of-war could lead to an armistice in about a week.

General Clark also had a long discussion with President Syngman Rhee. One source stated that the two exchanged angry words. And afterward, Syngman Rhee was described as over-wrought -- on the verge of tears.

~~OUTRIGHTLY XXXXX ONE YEAR OF XXXXX~~ Because he is opposing any armistice that will leave Korea divided. ^{To reporters he} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ stated: "South Korea will sign the present truce proposals." And he added: "America is forcing us to."

The President of South Korea calls the present plan "appeasement" - a "death warrant" for South Korea. He had been saying that the Chinese Reds must leave Korea, before he would accept the truce proposals. Now he agrees to accept it - and says we are compelling him to.

^{leader of the South Koreans!}
The ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ revealed that he had sent a counter-proposal to President Eisenhower several days ago. The contents - not revealed. But one guess is, that Syngman Rhee asked for a security guarantee. That is, he would want this country to come to the aid of South Korea in the event of another Communist attack.

So in Korea, the feeling is twofold. The U.N. ~~forces~~ forces, ^{optimistic} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ about ~~it~~ ending the war soon. The South Korean government, not so optimistic about what will happen to their country once the shooting ends.

ADD KOREA TRUCE

Here's the latest from the south Korean Embassy in Washington. Syngman Rhee proposes the simultaneous removal of both U.N. and Communist troops. It also asks for a mutual defense agreement between America and South Korea.

AMENDMENT

That proposed amendment to the Constitution has a long way to go before it can become law - if it ever does. The amendment, mainly the work of Senator Bricker of Ohio. Senator Bricker wants to limit the authority of the President to make treaties ~~at~~ with other nations. Under the Bricker amendment, a treaty would become effective only after legislation. And Congress would have the right to rule on presidential agreements with other countries or with the U.N.

The amendment is opposed by President Eisenhower. The President thinks that the Bricker amendment would hamper our foreign policy.

But today the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the amendment. The proposal will now go to the Senate for its consideration. However, every amendment to the Constitution must be passed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress. and Secondly, the legislators of three-fourths of the states must okay it.

So even the approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee leaves the Bricker amendment still facing a test in Congress and in the state legislatures.

TAFT

Senator Taft wants a military alliance with Great Britain in the Far East. So stated in a special statement by the Senator from Ohio. Taft, answering his critics, who have accused him of wanting this country to "go it alone" in handling world problems.

In his statement, Taft remarked: "At no time did I use the words, that the United States should 'go it alone' in the Far East or anywhere else. But the Senator did say that we should ignore the U.N. if the Korean truce talks collapse. This, because the veto power can hold-up action in a crisis like the Korean War. Taft noted that the Russians might have done this, when that war broke out - except that they were boycotting the U.N. at the time. Also, Taft continued, neutral nations are allowed to sit on committees concerned with the war. For example, India.

So Taft thinks that our country should act independently, if the truce talks break down. But he would not abandon our Allies. Said he: "I think we should have a

free hand to form an alliance with the British, if we possibly can do so, as to how Far Eastern affairs should be conducted."

This, he argued, would overcome the veto problem, because no member of an alliance could veto the action of the other.

So that's Senator Taft's clarification of his position on one serious problem of our foreign policy. He would have us by-pass the U.N. if necessary. But he doesn't want us to "go it alone" - he doesn't want us to abandon our allies. *Instead* ~~and so~~ he calls for a military alliance with Great Britain in the Far East.

RICKENBACKER

Two famous fighter pilots met today at Miami Beach.

And they had an interesting few minutes comparing notes.

One, Captain Manuel Fernandez, second highest of our aces in Korea. He knocked down fourteen Migs.

The ^{other ace} ~~second ace~~ also a Captain - Captain Eddie Rickenbacker ^{who name and exploits are a part of} ~~The great rough and tumble airman of early American legend and history - Captain combat flying who leaped to fame by shooting down German planes over the trenches in World War One.~~ Eddie of World War One fame.

Fernandez noted that his sabrejet traveled at more than six hundred miles an hour. To this Rickenbacker remarked: "The Spad we flew would do all of a hundred and twenty, and maybe when somebody was on my tail, I could get two-hundred-and-fifty, going downhill a little." The two airmen enjoyed a lot of this give and take. For example, Captain Fernandez said that he could hit a Mig at thirty-five hundred feet. And Rickenbacker replied that it was more like thirty-five feet with him.

The jet that Fernandez flew was armed with six

fifty-calibre machine guns, that fired about a thousand rounds a minute. *"Rick" said all he had was* ~~According to Rickenbacker, he had~~ a couple of thirty calibre machine guns, ~~and that was all.~~

Then they discussed the question of guns jamming.

Captain Fernandez stated that only one or two guns ever jammed on him. Captain Rickenbacker replied that the guns were always jamming on him, and the other pilots who flew in the First World War. *Then he added!* ~~Said he~~ "We carried a hammer tied to our wrists, and when a gun jammed you just ~~slapped~~ *banged* it a few times."

This discussion between the two ~~captains,~~ *aces* graphic *ally illustrated* ~~indication of~~ how the world of aviation has changed since Nineteen Eighteen. Now, it's the sleek and fast jet, powered with high calibre guns and rockets. ~~With~~ *With* Eddie Rickenbacker flew the old-time crate - the type that wouldn't even be used in civil aviation today - much less giving ~~it~~ ^{it} to a fighter pilot to use in combat. ~~and~~ *Capt Eddie* ~~he~~ knocked down twenty-one German planes and four balloons. ~~Rickenbacker~~

RIO GRANDE

The border between the United States and Mexico is - a long line of sand. Water sometimes. The Rio Grande River. But the Rio Grande has disappeared. All dried up. Just sand.

They say it's the first time in recorded history that this has happened. Some old-time Texans recall that their grandparents told of the Rio Grande running dry. But official records extend back only fifty years.

More than three hundred thousand people live in the lower Rio Grande valley, And now wells are being hastily dug to make up for the water that the river usually supplies. The Mexican Government has forbidden anyone to pump water from the river for irrigation purposes, to a distance of twenty-five miles up stream from Laredo. But there's no international dispute. No chance for this country or Mexico to take more than its share. The river just went dry; the boundary all sand.

SEA MONSTER

A sea monster off the coast of California!

Captain Sam Randazzo, of a fishing boat, states that he and his crew sighted the monster near San Clemente Island, some fifty miles off the coast. "A sea monster as big as a submarine, he said, like something out of pre-historic times." He described it as having a neck over five feet thick. Eyes 12 inches in diameter, "cone shaped". Some eyes. Like headlights.

Captain Randazzo and his crew got close enough to fire at it. "I fired two shots into it, from my thirty-thirty rifle," he says, "We were close enough to hear the thud of the bullets into the monster's flesh." Then he goes on: "It did not bleed, but quietly submerged." Disappeared into the depths of the sea.

Fishermen around San Clemente Island are keeping a sharp watch - hoping to see the monster again.

CORONATION - QUESTION

Now about that question we asked last week:- which was the most famous and important coronation of all history? Here's my guess - and it takes us back a long, long time.

The year Eight Hundred. The Western world has been going through the Dark Ages. The barbarian invasions - the Goths, the Vandals, Attila and the Huns, the Saxons, the Franks, the Lombards. Three or four centuries have passed since the fall of the Roman Empire - and men look back to it as a sort of golden age. The Roman Empire - with its unity, peace, law and order. They wish it could return.

It is Christmas Day. The place - St. Peter's in Rome. Not the present edifice with Michelangelo's dome - but the older cathedral built by Constantine the Great, when he made Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire.

Before the high altar a man is kneeling in prayer. He has come with a few attendants - ^{- his name,} Charles, ~~the~~ King of the Franks. Charles the Great, whom we know as Charlemagne.

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He is the great warrior king of the West - ruling over what is now France, most of Germany, northern Italy. He has come down into Italy with an army, and overthrown the barbarian kingdom of the Lombards - who were threatening the Pope in Rome.

So Charlemagne kneels before the altar, and is unaware, as Pope Leo the Third approaches. The Pontiff has a crown in his hands, and this he places on the head of the King of the Franks. Proclaiming him - the new Roman Emperor.

That coronation was to be a dominant factor throughout the Middle Ages. Leading to the old Germanic empire, the Holy Roman empire. The basis for the claim of the medieval Popes - to make and un-make emperors.

The story, thus begun in the year Eight Hundred, goes on for more than a thousand years - until Eighteen Hundred and Six. When the Holy Roman Empire came to an end - because of the victories of Napoleon. Champion coronation, indeed! - when you start with Charlemagne and end with Napoleon.

DERBY

Great Britain as we know is trying to recover from all the Coronation excitement. But here they have another big event coming up tomorrow - the Derby! That traditional horse-race at Epsom Downs - in some ways the most famous race in the world. As usual, the reigning monarch has a horse in the race; the colt "Aureole" - owned by Queen Elizabeth. Of course the Queen herself will be on hand at Epsom Downs tomorrow, to watch her colt - and to be seen by the cockneys, the tourists, the upper classes, and the hoi polloi.

We know that the British are sentimental about their new Queen. And now there is a rumor - called by the London Mirror "a fantastic rumor" - that the owners of the other horses intend to let the Queen's entry win tomorrow. A ridiculous enough rumor, undoubtedly caused by sentiment following the Coronation. The London Mirror calls those who spread the story "admitted rumor-monger." And the paper demands an end to an absurd libel on the Derby.

Even without the rumor, the Queen's colt "Aureole"

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is causing a sensation. It is described as the most heavily backed horse in recent history. Hundreds of thousands of pounds being wagered on it throughout the Commonwealth. And we hear that many bookmakers will be ruined if "Aureole" wins.

This is also described as one race in which the losers will be delighted if the Queen's horse wins. How does "Aureole" stand in the odds quoted by the bookmakers? Second! The favorite is Pinza. Pinza will be ridden by Britian's top jockey - recently knighted, Sir Gordon Richards. I'd like to see this Derby, - with "Aureole's" jockey going all-out to win for the Queen. With Sir Gordon up on the favorite. I can just see them rounding Tattenham corner and booting them home, with Her Majesty saying "hear! hear! " Or maybe she'll be yelling her head off just like the Costermongers from Covent Garden.